

# October

Magic Lantern Society  
of the United States and Canada

NEWS 2020



*A Young Duo Doing A Phantasmagoria Show*

LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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*Click image to see show*

# Magic Lantern Entertainment Helping You To Survive

## ML Performing Group Meeting on Zoom

### From Terry Borton

A group interested in lantern performance met on Zoom for the second time last month, and had an enjoyable and interesting hour's discussion. Most of the talk continued the previous exploration of modern illuminants, both expensive "professional" LED systems, and inexpensive home-made ones.

The group is meeting bi-weekly at the moment. Anyone can join, no matter what the experience level. Just drop Terry Borton a line: [tborton@magiclanternshows.com](mailto:tborton@magiclanternshows.com).

Matt Schnittker created a great summary complete with pictures and technical explanations, of our discussions and his work and others at his blog, <http://mattschnittker.blogspot.com/2020/08/magic-lantern-illumination.html>



## International Panorama Council - Summer 2020 News

<https://panoramacouncil.org/>

Updates from the International Panorama Council



Russian Sector of Museums-Custodians of Panoramas and Dioramas Receives Approval for their Guidance Manual

<https://mailchi.mp/355d3770b26b/call-for-papers29th-international-panorama-council-conference-5188133?e=22c7c0a599>

Russian Sector of Museums-Custodians of Panoramas and Dioramas Receives Approval for their Guidance Manual

## EVENT INFORMATION

Upcoming Events



**SAT, OCT 3 AT 4 PM PDT**  
**Phantasmagoria POSTPONED**

**Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site**  
32 Catherine St. Albany, NY

## Native American Lantern Slide Donation

### From Tom Rall

Hi Larry and David,

I am forwarding information on the donation of my Native American lantern slide collection to the National Anthropological Archives (NAA) at the Smithsonian Institution. Some of the information in the attachments might be of interest to some society members.

Presently the archives is still closed due to the pandemic, as are most of the D.C. museums, which are only slowly reopening. But when it reopens, the slides should be available for public viewing upon appointment. And there may be a press release from there down the line.

One of the nice things about being a collector/dealer of photographic images, primarily lantern slides and stereoviews, around the Nation's Capital is that I've been privileged to meet archivists and directors of photography at some of the national institutions. Not the least of these has been Paula Richardson Fleming, retired from NAA, who co-authored the 1988 book, "The North American Indians in Early Photographs."

Paula was also responsible for my previously-reported donation of the earliest known photograph, a wood-framed Langenheim lantern slide, of the Smithsonian Castle, the first building of the institution.

Tom



### INVENTORY

Tom Rall lantern slide collection

520 lantern slides

70 4" x 5" negatives

Immediate provenance: collected by Tom Rall, a Virginia dealer in lantern slides and other photographic material. Same person who donated the earliest known photo of the SI Castle (see also) <https://siarchives.si.edu/blog/deconstructing-mystery-rare-photo-proves-be-earliest-ever-taken-smithsonian-castle> to the Castle collection.



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## Native American Lantern Slide Donation continued

### DESCRIPTION

- Includes NY State Education Department slides, some colored. Three of the slides are Keystone Co. Various tribes. 110 slides.
- Mixed slides—produced by various companies including Detroit Publishing Co., Putnam and Valentine, Chicago Transparency Co, McAllister, and others. Depict various tribes. 54 slides.
- T. H. McAllister slides—includes Tom Torlino before and after photos by Choate, and images from Northwest and Plains. 9 slides.
- Kodak slides—Mooney Cheyenne/Arapaho Ghost Dance images. 9 slides.
- Keystone slides—various tribes. 6 slides
- Kemp slides—Southwest and plains, all colored. 9 slides
- Eye Gate House Inc. slides—various tribes. Some colored. 11 slides. Total 98 slides.
- Underwood & Underwood slides—mostly Southwest but at least one Plains. 5 slides.
- Roland Reed slides—various tribes, some colored. 22 slides.
- Victor Animatograph slides—Navajo, all colored. 18 slides.
- Mixed slides—produced by various companies. Various tribes, many colored. 38 slides.

Total 83 slides.

- Johnson collection. Mixed slides. Lakota/Plains, Pine Ridge/Rosebud, some colored. 84 slides.
- Johnson collection. Mixed slides. Lakota/Plains, Pine Ridge/Rosebud, some colored. 98 slides.
- Johnson collection. In small metal 2-piece box. Bible readings and hymns in Dakota language. Victor A. slides are in decent shape. 45 slides.
- Johnson collection. 4" x 5" negatives in 9 original boxes inside of 12" case with handle.
- family pictures, possibly Johnson's family? 13 negatives.
- family pictures, possibly Johnson's family? 14 negatives.
- several family pictures, photos of Lakota individuals and photos of buildings in a town, several land scape shots. 15 negatives.
- Mostly photos of Lakota individuals including two photos of Red Cloud. The photos of Red Cloud are nitrate negatives taped to glass. 10 negatives.
- Photos of items from books of missionaries probably to make lantern slides with. 15 negatives.
- Photos of items from books of missionaries at Yankton probably to make lantern slides with. 5 negatives.
- Photos of items from books and photos of missionaries and Native individuals probably to make lantern slides with. Also 2 unmounted lantern slides (single pane) with Lakota text. 11 negatives and 2 lantern slides.

Total 70 negatives and 2 lantern slides.

## Auction Catalog Available



### From Bryan & Page Ginns

Our Fall Antique Photographica Auction Catalog is now on-line at our web site:  
[www.stereographica.com](http://www.stereographica.com)

The auction closes Saturday, October 24, 2020, at 3:00pm (US Eastern Time Zone) and features 200 lots of fine Antique Photographica imagery & hardware. Included in the sale are Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes, Tintypes, Stereo Views, Cabinet Cards, Cartes de Visite, Autochromes, Stereoscopes, Pre-Cinema, Optical Toys, Magic Lanterns and Slides, Ephemera, and related material. The sale features live real time on-line bidding, however you must pre-register in order to bid. Please register early.

## Thoughts on Scheduling Next Convention

### From The Netherlands

Adrian and Else

Subject: Greetings from The Netherlands

Dear members of the board,

Thank you very much for The Magic Lantern Gazette Volume 32. We enjoyed reading the interesting articles in the beautifully designed magazine.

Of course we have seen the President's Message with the questions about the postponed convention 2021. Again you have to make a difficult decision.

In August after the decision of MLS UK we have written to Jeremy Brooker and Martin Gilbert: 'Thank you for your courage to make this difficult decision early. Adrian and I think it shows wisdom and sense of reality. It is better to receive a clear message during a time of uncertainty.'

Here in The Netherlands, far away from you, we hoped so much seeing you all next year and presenting a performance of The Dickens Theatre. But we too are doubting again about travelling to the US.

You asked for an reaction about this subject.

To be honest we think those conventions and conferences can only start again when a



**Dickens and The Cricket on the Hearth**



**Introduction Dickens in Paris**

vaccine will protect us. Let's hope this will happen in the near future!

Well, we still have a voucher for the flight to Detroit!

We thank especially Larry Rakow for hard work preparing the convention of 2020. For him in particular it must have been a very disappointing job to undo it all.

With very best wishes, stay healthy and one day we really will meet again,

Adrian and Else

### From Brian Rogers

Thanks Larry

I agree with you, and that's why I asked the question in the Gazette. I also think we should not have a convention in the same year as the UK group - some participants would like to go or present at both, and doing two in one year is a challenge financially. But more important - I agree that we are not ready to plan when we don't know when the pandemic will let up.

My personal preference would be to plan a good virtual convention for sometime next summer, and to prepare for an in-person convention in 2022. I watched part of the UK virtual meeting this year, and was impressed with the quality of presentations.

*continued next page*

## Thoughts of Scheduling Next Convention continued

I also think a virtual convention would attract some of our members who cannot travel to an in-person one, and might bring in some of the 400+ people who are members of our Facebook group but are not members of the Society.

Be well, stay well,

Brian

**From David Evans**

Hi

I have heard back from Richard Crangle at the British society. He writes:

we've had to drop it back by a year, to 29 April to 1 May 2022 (Friday to Sunday, as usual), still in Birmingham. On past form, our other Saturday meeting dates that year would be likely to be mid-late July, mid-late October, and then late January 2023, but none of those are fixed except the Convention and they shouldn't affect your planning anyway.

I hope that doesn't interfere with your plans - is this still the postponed 2020 event that you're thinking of now (I think we'd imagined you doing that in 2021), or the next iteration in its rightful place?

**From Ron Easterday**

Agree, plan for 2022 in Cleveland.

**From Larry Rakow**

None of us know what the future may bring, but I'd suggest firming up our 2022 plans, picking a date, and getting news out as soon as possible. That could very well influence decisions on the part of our British colleagues.

Larry (R.)

Very sweet message from A&E and I must agree with them on the possibility of a 2021 convention. The more I think about it, the more certain I've become that we would need to start planning now for anything in 2021 and I cannot imagine presenters feeling secure enough...given the present circumstances...to commit to a program. In addition, if we're to maintain an every-other-year convention schedule with the British Society (and correct me if I'm wrong here), we'd have to postpone until 2022 anyway. I'm still up for coordinating a Cleveland get-together, regardless of the year, but decisions need to be made soon. Is there any interest in a virtual convention? Other groups I'm a member of have taken that route with unexpected success. Miss you all and am still hurting from the cancellation of this year's gig. Hope this finds you all well...

Larry (R.)



## **The Conservatory of Cinematographic Techniques Program 2020 - 2021 French Cinematheque 51 rue de Bercy Paris 12th**



Conference program of the Conservatoire des techniques, Cinémathèque française, October 2020 - June 2021

The conferences of the Conservatory of techniques resume on October 9 at the French Cinémathèque.

You will find the complete program of the Conservatory at: <https://www.afcinema.com/Conservatoire-des-techniques>  
Kind regards

Laurent Mannoni  
Directeur scientifique du Patrimoine  
et du Conservatoire des techniques

<http://www.cinematheque.fr/fr/catalogues/appareils/collection.html>







## To Last Issue of Gazette

From Dan Sherman

Larry & David,

This comment is in response to a item that appeared in the last issue of the Gazette.

I hope all is well with everyone there. We are all basically OK here, except we can hardly breath; the whole world here is an orange-gray from heavy smoke. Portland, itself, is not on fire, but to the immediate SE there are towns and countrysides that are in dire straits because of fires. Fortunately, for those fighting the fires, the winds have abated considerably. The lack of air movement and moderately high-pressure has cause stagnation and the smoke is just setting there at ground level and not moving. Eventually, we will likely recover from the smoke, covid-19 and everything else that is out there.

Dan

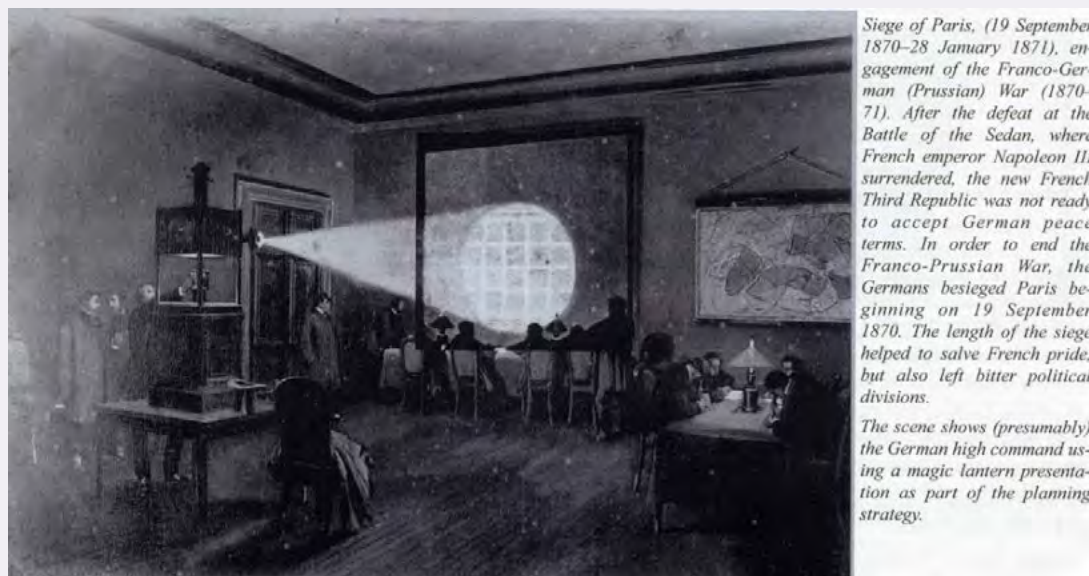
From David Evans

Hi Dan

That is amazing - thank you! We shall very much look forward to your article in due course.

The following is in response to a picture that appeared in the most recent issue of the ML Gazette, Vol. 32, No. 2, p 13; copy attached (figure 1). The scene involves a magic lantern presentation during the Franco-Prussian/German war of 1870-71. A brief narrative of the war's activities and consequences accompanies this image. A descriptive caption following the narrative states, in-part "The scene shows (presumably) the German high command... planning strategy." The fact that it states (presumably) suggests an uncertainty as

to the true identity of what is portrayed here. Knowing this image is associated with a war, it does look like it may be someone's "strategic planning" session. Despite what it seems to possibly show, it has nothing to do with military strategy. What is taking place, is the transcribing of messages projected onto a screen. They are official government (French) dispatches and personal correspondence arriving in Paris via pigeon post (see fig.2).



*Siege of Paris, (19 September 1870–28 January 1871), engagement of the Franco-German (Prussian) War (1870–71). After the defeat at the Battle of the Sedan, where French emperor Napoleon III surrendered, the new French Third Republic was not ready to accept German peace terms. In order to end the Franco-Prussian War, the Germans besieged Paris beginning on 19 September 1870. The length of the siege helped to save French pride, but also left bitter political divisions.*

*The scene shows (presumably) the German high command using a magic lantern presentation as part of the planning strategy.*

Figure 1: From ML Gazette, p13.

*continued next page*

## Response To Last Issue of Gazette continued



Fig. 56. — Fac-simile d'une dépêche microscopique du siège de Paris.

Figure 2: Translated from French to English: Facsimile of a Microscopic Dispatch during the Siege of Paris. This is a sample of what is being projected onto the screen in Figures 1 & 3. From: *Les Merveilles de La Photographie*, Paris, 2nd Edition, p231, 1874 by Gaston Tissandier.

At present I am actively engaged in writing an article "The Magic Lantern and the Siege of Paris, 1870-71" for publication in the *Gazette*. I have been working on it for a couple of months or so, and am about 75-80% finished. It will clearly explain in some detail what this scene is all about, plus other, relevant, related material. Also, included here are two illustrations from my article, figures 2 & 3.

To provide an idea of the story line of my paper, here is the opening paragraph.

This is an account of how a unique form of photography and a specialized type of magic lantern [the Duboscq Megascopie] helped stabilize a city's sanity during an unfortunate, contrived war. The story begins with an outline of events leading up to this situation, then highlights René Dagron's unique photographic techniques, and the role these techniques and the magic lantern played in helping ease tensions and anxieties among the people of Paris after Prussian military forces surrounded Paris cutting off communications and travel, isolating Paris from the outside world during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71.

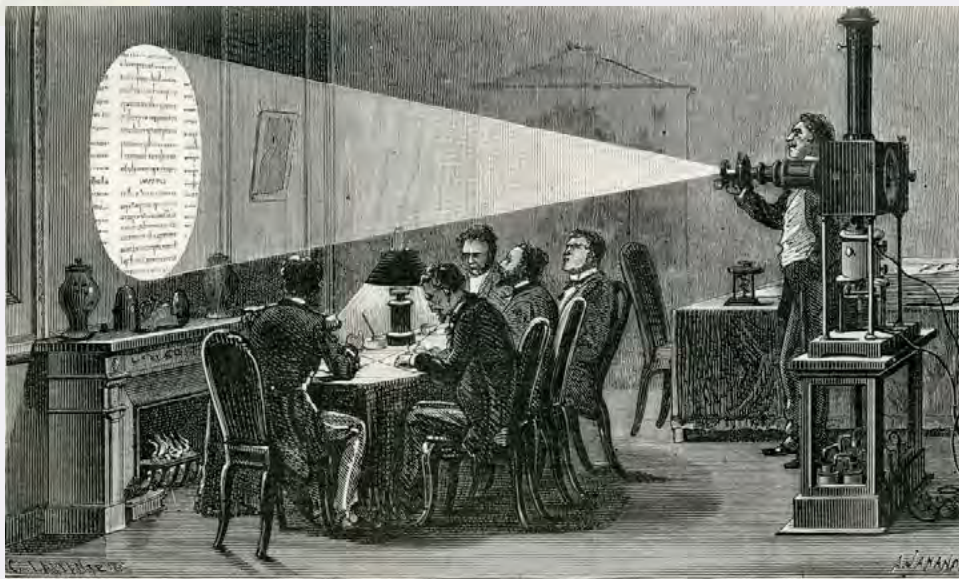


Fig. 57. — Agrandissement des dépêches microscopiques pendant le siège de Paris.

Figure 3: A scene similar to the one that appeared in the *Gazette*. Translated to English: Enlarging Microscopic Dispatches during the Siege of Paris. From: *Les Merveilles de La Photographie*, Paris, 2nd Edition, p233, 1874 by Gaston Tissandier.



## Old Magic Lantern Slides

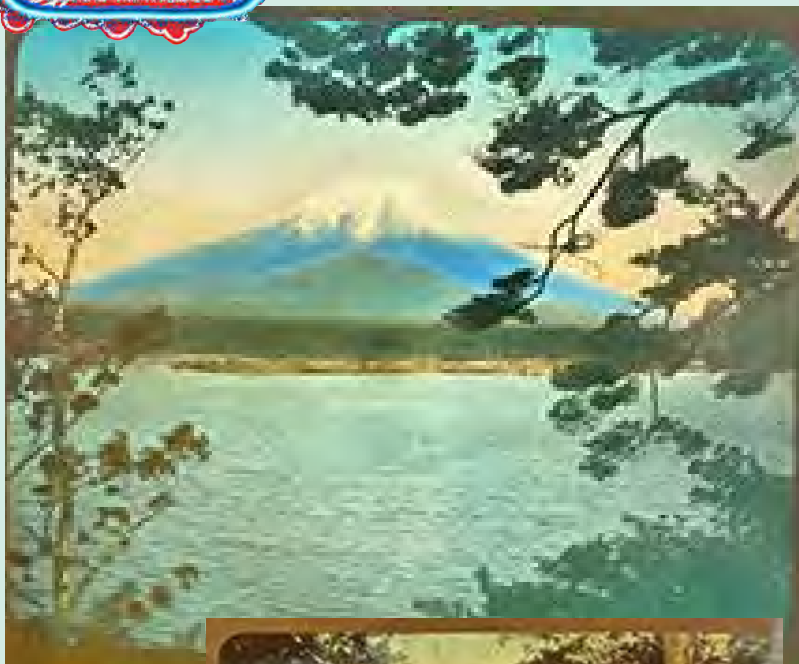


**From Chris Whitney**  
whitjr1975@icloud.com

Hi my family recently cleaned out a family members home after passing. We found three old boxes and inside them were old Slides. I think most are foreign Japan China Tibet ? Or possibly somewhere in that region. Not sure what they are truly called or what type of slides most are colored but some are black and white most not labeled. The Boxes also had these old receipts in them. I've included just a few sample images as there are a-lot more.

It appears from what I've seen is that this was a trip vacation or tour from a wealthy couple as on the slides there is a couple that are on multiple slides nicely dressed. I've been able to confirm that they traveled to Egypt and Japan for sure and it appears other countries.

There would be about 50 slides.



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## Old Magic Lantern Slides continued

### From David Evans

Hi Chris

They are certainly magic lantern slides, and beautifully coloured ones too. The fact that they are not labelled nor have maker's identification (I assume, as you haven't mentioned any) makes one wonder if they were taken on a private tour round those countries. The photographer was skilled, and might have sub-contracted the colouring to a professional slide maker. Guesswork, I'm afraid. They may date from late 19th Century or possibly early 20th. Are you aware of any ancestors going on world trips?

Did you have in mind anything that you want to do with them? Maybe you just want information, in which case we can add them to our next E-Publication (October) which goes to all our members. It may be that someone will have ideas about them, in which case we can pass them on to you.

Hi Chris

Thank you for the extra images and detail of the label. The photographer was very capable and the hand tinting excellent. Will see



if any of our members come up with anything useful. We can put in our E-Publication that they may be for sale and to enquire direct to you,

David Evans





## Lantern Slide Plate Query

**From Ross Hudson**

rosshudson355@gmail.com

Good morning;

I've been going through a box of very old photographs, slides, prints and such taken through the years by my dad. I've come across one box labeled as Eastern Lantern Slide Plates. The plates are 2"x 2" and the top one at least displays an image of a schooner aground. I noticed that the first and second slide are connected with a seemingly expandable glue. Hence I have not attempted to separate what appears to be four or five slides.

I wonder if you could enlighten me as to what I have and whether they can be separated. Also the origination of a 2" x 2" glass slide. It seems that the standard US lantern slide was 3 1/4" x 4" and the British standard was 3.25" square. I haven't found a reference to 2" x 2".

I'll attach photos which might be helpful.

Thanks very much.

Ross Hudson

Thanks very much David. I appreciate the background and shall continue to go through the box and see if other magic slides turn up.

I did do a little bit of separating. You had asked about the image of the schooner. I think



it is a positive although I am in the dark about such things...no pun intended :) I separated the image and photo 1932 is the slide separated and the others, still attached, set against the box. You can see the difference in photo 1930 where I adjusted the color.

I also separated the last slide in the grouping. If I'm right that last slide may well be of a little cottage in Lobsterville on Martha's Vineyard. And it would date to around 1939-41. And it would have a very interesting personal...and historic story. When my parents first married they rented a small cottage perched on a dune overlooking Lobsterville beach. According to my mom, the cottage had floated across the sound during the 1938 hurricane. When



I was growing up we spent summers on the Vineyard and kept track of that little place.

David, thanks again for your help. I'll keep you posted as I learn more about these slides.

Ross

**From David Evans**

Good Morning Ross

Thank you for your enquiry.

It looks as if the slides have paper bindings and the glue holding them has leached out a bit. It should be possible to separate them with care and a sharp knife and hope the bindings remain more or less undamaged. It appears that the image of the schooner is a negative - is that actually so, or is it a trick of the light? The only type of slide that I have come across that is 2 inches square is a mounted 35mm slide. Some of the earlier images intended for what became 35mm slide projectors were glass before amateur photography took off, when of course

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## Lantern Slide Plate Query continued



the mounted transparency film slides dominated the photographic scene, so I guess your slides were intended for that kind of projector.

I hope that helps a bit.

Your dates stack up - 1939-41. There were certainly projectors for 2" x 2"/35mm slides around then. Really good if they do turn out to be family history! I agree, the schooner does look like a positive now. They should really have cover glasses to protect the emulsion. Maybe they do, but if not, then try to get old picture framing glass, as that is about the right thickness. Modern window glass is too thick. The binding material was passe partout, gummed paper strips. Can still be found sometimes at old picture restorers' workshops, or try eBay.

Fascinating story about the floating cottage!

Regards

David

**FOR SALE**

**OPEN FOR OFFERS**

## Slides For Sale

**From Eric Hodgkin**  
erichodgkin@hotmail.com

Hello,

I've recently acquired some slides that I would be interested in selling. I live in Granby, CT. Do you know of anyone in the area that would take a look at what I have?

Thank You,

Eric Hodgkin  
(860)-218-0877



**From David Evans**

Hello Eric

Possibly. It would help if you could send a few pictures of what you have, as that way we could establish the type and get an idea of the subject matter. We could put them in our next E-Publication and say 'Open to Offers', or the price if you have decided upon one.

I see the scale of your problem! It would be best if someone could visit you to look at them and advise. I shall pass your email on to a member who is fairly near you and hope he may be able to help. If he feels he can, he will be in touch with you directly, otherwise we will put them in our next E-Publication (October) and hope for the best.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans



## Magic Lantern Slides

### From Alfred Coleman

chefskippy54@icloud.com

I have a collection of slides I would like to sell, there are a few colored ones, I have a lot of black white ones from Cuba , some Florida. Italy, 1 leaning tower Pizza  
I have a group of statues in Rome, Levy & C Suc de Ferrier P. fo Soulier Paris Places around. Havana, Florida, Roma, Venus, Vesuvius

There are 54 slides.

Let me Know, They Have been in MY IN-LAWS family. I just got them



### From David Evans

Hi Alfred

Thank you for contacting us. It is hard to discern much from your picture. Are they in sets, like stories or lectures, with notes, are they coloured, or black & white, are they just an assortment of images? Are there any slide maker's details on any of them? If you could send us a few more detailed pictures it would help identify them.

Perhaps photograph them against a light source.

We can add them to our next E-Publication (October) and it may be that some of our members could be interested in them.

The Cuba ones look interesting - are they all like that sort of approach - a little like cartoon characters? Obviously hand drawn/painted.

Would you want to dispose of the whole collection in one lot or could you divide them up into, say Cuba, Florida etc?

I think groups would be sensible. A few more pictures might be useful, perhaps one or two

*continued next page*



## Magic Lantern Slides continued



of the Levy slides and perhaps Venus, but don't worry about the topographical ones too much.

Where are you located? This might affect shipping costs.

David Evans



## Magic Lantern Slides



From Don Albacker

dlalbacker@comcast.net

I hope you are well and safe in this challenging time.

I am the recipient of what I think are magic lantern slides and the original packaging. I would like to learn if there is some value. Would you provide some suggestions for whom to show, collectors such as your organization, museums or auction houses that specialize in these?

I appreciate any guidance you can provide. Stay safe.

Thank you David for the quick response. I appreciate your input very much.

I am in the Phila. area. I am aware of the ebay difference between asked and sold for.

I don't know that I have the time to manage a sale process. Would you know of an auction house that specializes in lantern slides?

Thanks so much again.

All the slides are 3 1/4" by 4". Some are cracked. Some pictures show the photographer's reflection. Famous people: Woodrow Wilson, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Frank Keenan, and the Castles.



WAR EFFORT

*continued next page*



## Magic Lantern Slides continued

From  
David Evans

Hello Don

Undoubtedly they have collector value. The forthcoming attraction slides appeal to some collectors and the war bonds and other war slides also will have, but probably to a different group of collectors. It is hard to put a monetary value on them, and the Society does not do

appraisals as such, but I suggest we put them in our next E-Publication (October) and say that they are open to offers (unless you know what you want for them) and I think there is a good chance you would find takers. May I ask where you are located, as it could affect shipping costs.

You might look on eBay for similar items to get ideas about value, though bear in mind that many eBay advertisers ask very unrealistic prices. If you look at examples



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ADVERTISING



WAR EFFORT continued

that have already sold that might give a more accurate idea.

Thank you for contacting us.

I don't know of a specific auction house, though any of them obviously could put them up for sale. Could I suggest that you divide them into two groups - forthcoming attraction



UPCOMING PLAYS OR MOVIES



WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

*continued next page*

## A Big Thank You to the following:

*contributing to this months issue.*

Don Albacker	Larry Rakow
Terry Borton	Tom Rall
Alfred Coleman	Brian Rogers
Ron Easterday	Dan Sherman
David Evans	Chris Whitney
Else Flim	
Bryan & Page Ginns	
Eric Hodgkin	Patrick McDonnell
Ross Hudson	Concept & Cartoon Art
Adrian Kok	
Laurent Mannoni	

## Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry

## Magic Lantern Slides continued

slides and war time ones - and we could put that offers for each group would be considered? That way you would get good coverage and only have to deal with two lots. If you do decide to put them in a local auction house, if you let us have details of the sale we could let our members know about it?

Regards

David



## Welcome New Members

### Robert D Marcus

85416 Dudley  
Chapel Hill  
NC 27517  
USA  
Ph: (919) 967-9422  
E: rdmwar@aol.com

Film maker, author, retiree

Interested in Civil War slides and gives shows on that subject

### Valerie Lettera-Spletzer

1050 Rutland Ave.  
Los Angeles  
CA 90042  
USA

Ph: (323) 679-3641

E: vlettera.shopping@mac.com

Occupation: DreamWorks Animation

Interests: new to magic lanterns, so about everything! Slides, esp Fairy tales, story sets, Humor, Ghosts, Children, Animals, mechanical Literature, esp How To. Vintage Cinema, esp early attempts at special effects and set design.





## Academy of Motion Pictures Museum and the Margaret Herrick Library Receive the Richard Balzer Collection

**From Patricia Bellinger**

bellinp@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

I thought you'd want to know the final disposition of Dick's fabulous pre-cinema collection. I am so happy to share with you that I have gifted the collection to the Academy of Motion Pictures Museum and the Academy's Margaret Herrick Library, where the collection will remain together, available for scholarly research at the library, and in rotating exhibits, on display at the museum in Los Angeles, California, which is set to open in April 2021. A smaller gift also went to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

I've attached the press release and a fabulous exclusive story in ART NEWS, both of which were released at 2pm EST. Here is the link to the museum's website announcing the collection, which includes a stunning 6 min film by Dick's son Matthew, which tells the story of the art form and Dick's collection, all told through footage of Dick himself:

<https://www.academymuseum.org/en/exhibitions/path-to-cinema>

Thank you to everyone who supported me in this process, who cared for Dick, who admired his collection, or all three. Special thanks to Pierre Patau and Babette Calley, without whom this gift would never have happened.

Patti



### LOS ANGELES, CA, September 29, 2020

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures announced that it, along with the Academy's Margaret Herrick Library, is the recipient of the Richard Balzer Collection, widely considered to be the world's foremost collection of pre-cinematic optical toys and devices. Comprising more than 9,000 objects-including magic lanterns, magic lantern glass slides, prints, praxinoscopes, figurines, paintings, peepshows, shadow puppets and theaters, and more, dating as far back as China's Ming Dynasty the Balzer Collection provides the Academy Museum an unparalleled resource for telling the full story of the development of motion pictures.

"The magic of the movies began with a sense of wonder at seeing still images come to life," Jessica Niebel, Exhibitions Curator at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures said. "No

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## Richard Balzer Collection continued

one was more dedicated than the late Richard Balzer to the marvelous history of pre-cinema. No one did more to preserve these riches and make them available to the public. We are honored to steward the Richard Balzer Collection and present these extraordinary objects to the public.”

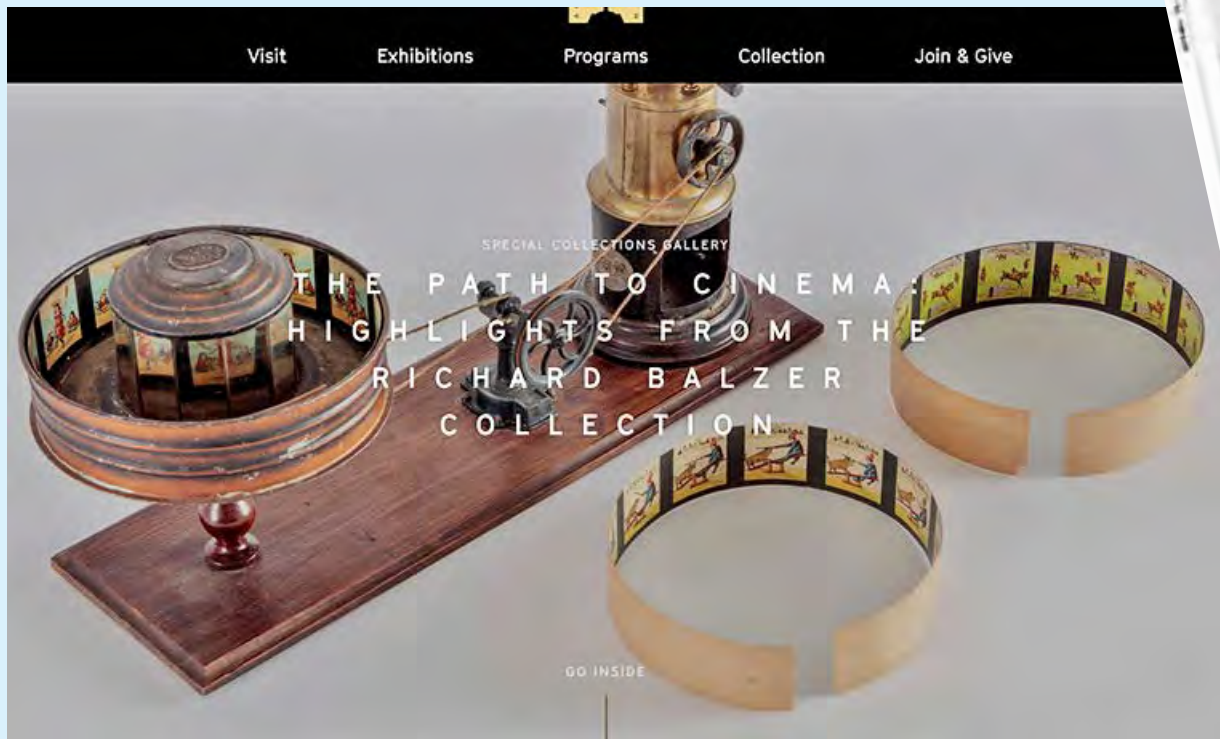
Matt Severson, Director of the Margaret Herrick Library, said, “This extraordinary collection of pre-cinematic material, so carefully collected and preserved by Richard Balzer, will be studied and appreciated for generations to come at

the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and the Margaret Herrick Library. Patricia S. Bellinger and the late Richard Balzer have my utmost gratitude for what they are gifting to the Academy, film scholarship, and movie lovers everywhere.”

Richard Balzer (1944-2017) collected pre-cinematic devices for over 40 years. Fascinated by the history of visual entertainment, he amassed a large collection of pre-cinema objects from Europe, Asia, and America dating as far back as the 17th century. The collection was generously donated by Patricia

S. Bellinger, the widow of Richard Balzer. Bellinger, business leader and philanthropist, currently serves as the Chief of Staff and Strategic Advisor to the President of Harvard University and joined the Academy Museum’s Board of Trustees earlier this year.

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